



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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9 SEPTEMBER 1966

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1. Thailand

Foreign Minister Thanat seems bent on transforming the present arrangements governing the US military presence in Thailand into a full-blown mutual security treaty.

He told Ambassador Martin this week that the cabinet had authorized him to make soundings about negotiating a more "satisfactory" agreement concerning mutual military obligations. Thanat claimed that criticism of Thailand by important elements in the US left him wondering if future administrations would defend Thailand.

Thanat is probably feeling hypersensitive right now because of Asian indifference to his recent Vietnam "peace initiatives." In any event, it is not clear how much support his plan has among the Thai military. We are inclined to the view that the military are unlikely to back any fundamental change in arrangements with the US.

2. Indonesia

An agreement settling the Netherlands' claim for property seized in Indonesia has finally been signed, after the Dutch scaled down their demands from over \$1 billion to \$167 million. Settlement of this irritating issue will encourage the Dutch to expand economic and cultural relations.

3. France

Preparations are going ahead for the third French nuclear test in the Pacific tomorrow.

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4. Africa

We have reports that the Guinean delegate to next week's meeting of the World Health Organization in Kinshasa (Leopoldville) will be one Kwame Nkrumah. But we are skeptical.

He would be as welcome as a skunk at a lawn party, and Touré, who has been keeping him under wraps even in Conakry, probably does not want to precipitate an Africa-wide uproar at this time.

5. South Vietnam

Prime Minister Ky has told Ambassador Lodge that he forestalled a coup attempt last week in which Defense Minister Co and Fourth Corps commander Quang were implicated. Lodge notes that Ky may be laying the groundwork for getting rid of the two generals who have been at odds with Ky and other military leaders for several months. Saigon's top security official recently scoffed at the possibility of a serious coup attempt.

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6. Egypt

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7. Syria

The regime now claims that it crushed an "imperialist-backed" coup attempt yesterday. Damascus was quiet today, but the political situation will remain fragile, with rival factions within the military regime jockeying for power.

8. Ecuador

A "hunger march" by Communist-dominated labor and student groups is scheduled for this evening in Quito. Should serious violence result, Yerovi, who is again in the mood to resign, might really throw in the sponge.

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